

City Neighborhood Council
MINUTES
Monday, May 20, 2002

Voting Members: Adrienne Bailey (Central); Pete Spalding (Delridge); Charlie Cunniff (Greater Duwamish); Chris Leman (Lake Union); Victor Barry (Magnolia/Queen Anne); Jeannie Hale (Northeast); Ref Lindmark (Northwest); Lisa Merki (Southeast); and Dennis Ross (Southwest).

Absent: Ballard, East and North.

Other District Council Members: Cindi Barker (Southwest) and Doug Lorentzen, Neighborhood Matching Fund Committee Chair.

City Staff: Chuck Clarke and Denise Andrews (Seattle Public Utilities), Bernie Matsuno and Stan Lock (Department of Neighborhoods).

In Kate Joncas' absence, Charlie Cunniff called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Everyone introduced themselves.

April Minutes – Were **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Guest Speaker – Chuck Clarke, Director, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) – SPU is considering a rate increase for water service. The Mayor will decide next week on whether to give SPU the go-ahead. If the go-ahead is given, SPU will work with the City Council over the summer on the amount of the increase. SPU is currently studying its rate structure for commercial and residential customers to ensure that the present billing system is applied equitably. If approved, the increase will go into effect this fall. Rate increases for solid waste, drainage and wastewater services will be looked at in 2003.

SPU's budget is divided into two major components, the capital and operational costs. It was acknowledged that citizens have the greatest influence on the capital budget and should focus their efforts there.

Doug Lorentzen expressed frustration that in some cases, Seattle Transportation has steered away from making street repairs where drainage is needed because of the added cost of the drainage. Clarke responded that SPU is in discussions with Seattle Transportation on an arrangement to set-aside funds for drainage and street repairs. Under the arrangement, SPU would set-aside drainage funds for use on street repairs and Seattle Transportation would set-aside street repair funds on drainage projects where applicable. SPU is also in discussions with City Light and private contractors on the development of a process to coordinate work schedules on City right-of-ways in order to cut down on the amount of closures and disruptions due to utility work.

Chris Leman prepared a sheet of "neighborhood issues and opportunities" related to SPU and Seattle City Light (see attached). Chris and Stephen Lundgren will refine the aforementioned sheet and submit to SPU for their response. CNC members can forward additional comments for inclusion in the sheet to Chris or Stephen. **SPU will present the list of questions and responses at the June CNC meeting for discussion.**

Feedback on Budget Conference - All

The following comments were received:

- Victor Barry – Breakout sessions were too short. There was not enough time for participants to get to them all. Very well done, nonetheless.
- Doug Lorentzen – Stick to schedule, opening session ran over allotted time.
- Adrienne Bailey – A clear agenda with the descriptions, times and locations of each session needs to be distributed in advance of the conference. Also, the locations of the sessions were spread out too far apart, too much time was wasted going from one venue to another.
- Dennis Ross – While the conference was good in terms of collecting information, it lacked opportunities for giving input.
- Ref Lindmark – Add a session to review input from citizens and to allow time for the City to respond to the input.
- Cindi Barker – Better define the outcomes and goals of the conference. Recording input was "spotty"...some facilitators wrote down comments, others didn't.

- Chris Leman – Budget is so large that the number of breakout sessions was not adequate. Several conferences are needed during the course of the year. Hold two conferences...one on the City's capital budget and one on the operating budget.
- Charlie Cuniff – Sponsor budget conferences featuring one department at a time.

Process for CNC Preparation of Budget – Charlie Cuniff

Charlie Cuniff explained that Kate Joncas is proposing that the CNC develop a letter containing common budget priorities of all district councils for submission to the Mayor in August. In June and July, each district council will compile its list of priorities and submit them in a letter to the CNC.

Chris Leman suggested that Kate draft a letter that to send to all organizations regarding the budget process and timelines. Chris added that the number of priorities should not be limited.

Adrienne Bailey stated that it is important to keep the list short and focused, adding that if the list is too long and cumbersome, it won't send a clear message and will be less effective. Adrienne added that all district councils, community councils and business organizations, as well as individual citizens, should send letters because they will serve to reinforce the CNC letter.

Ref Lindmark added that the letter should be specific...a "short list of big things."

Victor Barry stated that since the CNC represents the City's neighborhoods, the letter should strongly defend the Department of Neighborhoods.

Committee Reports and Operations

1. Neighborhood Planning Committee (NPC) – Cindi Barker and Lisa Merki

Cindi and Lisa distributed a handout *The Neighborhood Planning Committee of the City Neighborhood Council* to members (see attached). Cindi and Lisa gave an overview about the purpose of the NPC, talked about the current state of neighborhood planning, and talked about plans to restart and rejuvenate the Neighborhood Planning Program.

2. Budget Committee – Chris Leman for Stephen Lundgren

Chris stated that more members are needed to serve on the committee and reminded members on the important role the Budget Committee plays in advising the City on budgetary matters. Chris added that he has suggested to Stephen Lundgren about the creation of a co-chairs or vice-chair configuration for the committee.

3. Neighborhood Matching Fund (NMF) Committee – Doug Lorentzen

Doug explained that the final scores of the NMF Large Projects were determined by averaging the scores of the Citywide Review Team (CRT) with the scores of the respective district council review teams. In total, 16 of the 21 projects submitted were funded.

Chris Leman asked if the 5 rejected applicants were given prior notice about the decision and offered the opportunity to file and have their grievances heard before the CNC. Chris stated that this policy is outlined in an amendment to the CNC bylaws.

Bernie Matsuno of the Neighborhood Matching Fund Program replied that the rejection notices will go out tomorrow and questioned whether the CNC is the appropriate body to hear grievances.

A long discussion ensued and it was decided that the grievance policy be discussed at a future CNC meeting. Chris Leman will not be present at the June CNC meeting and it was agreed that this discussion would take place when Chris is available. It was generally agreed that the role of the CNC in a grievance procedure needs to be further discussed and clarified before the next round of Large Projects applications.

Doug Lorentzen moved and Adrienne Bailey seconded a motion to approve the Neighborhood Matching Fund - Large Project Fund 2002 "B" Citywide Review Team Award Recommendations. MOTION CARRIED. Those voting in favor: Adrienne Bailey, Pete Spalding, Charlie Cuniff, Victor Barry, Ref Lindmark and Lisa Merki. Those who abstained: Chris Leman, Jeannie Hale and Dennis Ross.

Next Meeting – SPU will present their responses to the list of "neighborhood issues and opportunities" as developed by Chris Leman and Stephen Lundgren with input from CNC members.

Respectfully submitted by Stan Lock.